

Plan for Probe Of Panther Deaths Rapped

CHICAGO (AP)—State's Atty. Edward V. Hanrahan criticized the Justice Department for calling a special grand jury to investigate the killing of two Black Panther party leaders in a Dec. 4 raid by police.

Plans for the grand jury probe were announced in Washington yesterday by Atty. Gen. John N. Mitchell. He said such an investigation is necessary to douse rumors surrounding the incident.

Hanrahan said later yesterday in using the grand jury to conduct the investigation, the Justice Department is bypassing an established procedure of first questioning those involved in the case.

THE COOK COUNTY prosecutor, a former U.S. district attorney, said Panther members refused earlier to talk with FBI agents about the raid.

"It is outrageous that the Department of Justice would abandon its established practices because of the refusal of the Black Panther party to tell the truth to FBI agents," Hanrahan said.

He added the 14 police who took part in the predawn raid in which Fred Hampton, 21, leader of the Illinois Panthers, and Mark Clark, 22, were killed, would talk with agents.

"IT IS AMAZING that the Black Panthers, who claim their civil rights were violated, would refuse to support their claims by giving facts to the FBI," Hanrahan said.

He charged the Panthers "lied about the conduct of our officers and accused them of murdering Fred Hampton and Mark Clark."

Several Negro leaders, led by Roy Wilkins, executive director of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People urged the Justice Department to investigate the incident.

WILKINS AND Arthur J. Goldberg, former Supreme Court justice, plan to hold a private inquiry into the deaths.